

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 30, 2007. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Initially, by the above amendment, claims 1-4 are cancelled, and claims 5-9 are newly presented. Thus, claims 5-8 are currently pending in the present application.

Next, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised, and a substitute specification and abstract has been prepared. No new matter has been added. Also enclosed is a "marked-up" copy of the original specification and abstract to show the changes that have been incorporated into the substitute specification and abstract. The enclosed copy is entitled "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Note that the substitute abstract includes the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. Thus, the objection to the original abstract is now clearly obviated.

Next, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner correctly notes that the brief descriptions of Figs. 4 and 5 are reversed. Accordingly, the Brief Descriptions of Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 have been amended to correctly describe the respective figure. Thus, the corrected descriptions of Figs. 4-5 should obviate the drawing objection.

Next, on page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objects to the title as not being descriptive. Accordingly, a new title is presented in the substitute specification. It is submitted that the new title is indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Further, in response to the objection to the disclosure in item 4 of the Office Action, the language "fluid-in-transfer" has been replaced with the term "fluid,"

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Next, on pages 3-5 of the Office Action, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Budde (U.S. Patent No. 5,261,798).

It is submitted that the present invention, as embodied by the new claims, now clearly distinguishes over the Budde patent for the following reasons.

The present invention, as defined in independent claim 5, requires, *inter alia*:

"a main ring engaged via threads with an annular wall formed in said main body block,
said main ring being movable rotationally relative to said main body block to insert the annular wall of said main body block into an annular space between an outer annular portion of said main ring and an inner annular portion of said main ring such that a peripheral portion of said barrier membrane is clamped and thus fixedly secured to said main body block; and

a pilot valve assembly block fixedly secured to said main body block by engaging said main ring with said main body block, said pilot valve assembly block having a pilot valve integrated therein as one body for detecting reciprocating motion of said center rod; and

a sub ring engaged via a thread with a threaded section of said pilot valve assembly block such that, by fastening of said sub ring, said pilot valve assembly is pressed against and thus fixedly secured to said main body block with the aid of said main ring."

Budde discloses a double membrane pump in which outer peripheral beads 9, 10 of the membranes are claimed between a housing cover 12 and a central housing 1. However, there is no structure in the Budde reference that corresponds to the claimed arrangement, which requires a pilot valve assembly block that is clamped and thus secured by a main ring and a sub ring.

Further, claim 5 specifies that the main ring is threadedly engaged with an annular wall formed in said main body block, and that the pilot valve is secured by a threaded engagement with the pilot valve assembly block. Thus, the Budde reference does not meet each and every limitation of claim 5, and therefore cannot anticipate claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b).

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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